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Yonkers Green Policy Task Force News

Free Movie Screening Tonight!
And the Greenies Winners
Were...
Free Film Screening

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Free Movie Screening Tonight!



In *Food, Inc.*, filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that has been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of our government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. Our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment. We have bigger-breasted

chickens, the perfect pork chop, herbicide-resistant soybean seeds, even tomatoes that won't go bad, but we also have new strains of E. coli-the harmful bacteria that causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually. We are riddled with widespread obesity, particularly among

children, and an epidemic level of diabetes among adults. Featuring interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser (Fast Food Nation), Michael Pollan (The Omnivore's Dilemma, In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield's Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin, Food, Inc. reveals surprising-and often shocking truths-about what we eat, how it's produced, who we have become as a nation and where we are going from here.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 28. Tonight!

TIME: 6:30 p.m. for wine and cheese. (Bring some to pass!) Movie starts at 7 p.m.

WHERE: 66 Main Street in Downtown Yonkers. This is the new residential loft building near Zuppa restaurant. The concierge will direct you to the roofgarden where the movie will be shown.

Copy:<http://www.foodincmovie.com/>

And the Greenies Winners Were...



For those of you who missed it, here is a list of Friday night's winners who were honored by the City's Green Policy Task Force for their environmental good deeds at our second annual Greenies Awards ceremony held at the Park Hill Racquet Club.

Sierra Bangari
Bright Future
Award

Sierra doesn't have to worry about what to be when she grows up. She is already well on her way to saving the world, gaining valuable experience at Riverside High School on the school's carbon footprint reduction team, helping to establish a recycling program, and writing green articles for the student newspaper the Grapevine. She is also a member of the Student Coalition of Westchester for a Sustainable Future and frequently attends the city's Green Policy Task Force meetings.

Francis Bowen

A Lifetime of Bee-Keeping Award

After 42 years of beekeeping, Francis Bowen keeps a good sense of humor about his hobby. But he also has a serious side to his plight to save bees. Not only does he want to see Yonkers adapt the same beekeeping legislation recently passed in New York City, he also does research for the United States Department of Agriculture on mite resistant bees. This one is for Francis and his late wife, Nora, who was not a big fan of his hobby but loved her honey.

The Rev. Susanna Williams

Bringing Green to her Community

Mother Susanna of St. John's Episcopal Church/Butler Nursery School has hosted Green Fairs at the church and school and has instituted green buying practices and put signage up around the nursery school to inform parents and parishioners about the need to think and live "green." But best of all, she makes connections with other faith-based green groups to being the message home.

Jess Buzzutto**Yonkers favorite Green Leprechaun**

The next winner is perhaps Yonkers most famous resident. He is Jess Buzzutto, a.k.a. the leprechaun man. Jess recently graced the New York Times metro section in a story all about how he dresses-and acts-like a leprechaun. Buzzutto wasn't always this popular. His life took a green turn when he began embracing his inner-leprechaun instead of being upset for never having grown taller than five feet or dying his beard, which is long and red or being called "leprechaun" behind his back. He now has close to 10,000 Facebook fans to prove that going green is good for the soul.

Karen Doran**Green PTA Mom**

Hats off to PTA parent Karen Doran for organizing two county sponsored auditorium-sized recycling presentations for students at Montessori 31 with the help of the GPTF. Thanks to her coordination efforts, more than 300 kids learned the how to's of classroom, cafeteria and home recycling.

Walter Chadwick**Educational Volunteer**

Walter Chadwick has a recession proof form of entertainment, one that attracts people of all ages-exploring nature. He takes the hobby one step further by working as a volunteer educator for school groups in Yonkers, teaching kids of all ages about camouflage, color, insects, birds, plants and more.

Lisa Chodorkoff of the Sarah Lawrence College Enviro-Earth Club**The College Student Do Something About It Award**

What do you get when you mix dirt, community and Sarah Lawrence College students? Visit the Buena Vista Community Gardens to see for yourself. This group of students and Enviro-Earth Club members make weekly pilgrimages to the Buena Vista Community Gardens to teach hands-on environmental science and garden ecology to Yonkers kids, ages 5 - 18. They also offer environmentally friendly craft and writing workshops in the Riverfront Library every Saturday.

Curt Collier**Green Ministry**

Here is a man who actually preaches what he practices. Say hello to Curt Collier, perhaps one of the first if not only green ministers of our time. Curt takes his message of environmental stewardship to his congregants at the NY Society for Ethical Culture where hundreds create ethical actions to honor and give back to the earth. Curt says his work is deeply satisfying--something many of us wish we could say about our own jobs.

Kim Eierman**Native Landscape Gardener Extraordinaire**

Kim organized her Armour Villa neighborhood into taking a vacant, rubble-strewn lot and creating a Native Garden there last September with about 40 kinds of indigenous trees and shrubs and

more than 900 perennials! A mini-eco system with its own water feature, it is also a certified wildlife habitat! With Kim, local is the way to go, and she stands ready to advise all of Yonkers on how to plant sun and shade native gardens.

Anne Mastropolo
Faculty Recycling Queen

Anne Mastropolo was a pivotal force in the creation of the Environmental Engineering magnet at the "green" Riverside High School! She was one of the Yonkers teachers who helped create the school and its curriculum. Under her guidance, the Riverside High School Recycling Program has become a model for the rest of the Yonkers school system.

Adrianna Melnyk
Death to Plastic Award

Adrianna has more than a pet peeve. She has a pet project-- that is to eradicate plastic from our planet, one bag at a time. To this end, she is never seen without her reusable bags in hand and is prophet like in her public education outreach. Another thing we love her for is taking the ban one step further by only buying biodegradable kitchen garbage bags, despite the higher cost.

Jim Killoran
Sustainable Building Advocate

From his beginnings studying solar energy in college to becoming executive director of Habitat for Humanity, a world-wide organization that builds affordable housing in partnership with people in need, Jim Killoran keeps it green by using recycled materials and incorporating Energy Star standards to help impoverished families save money on fuel costs. He's now moving beyond individual house efficiency to neighborhood efficiency - and that includes bike lanes! He just broke ground on Orchard Street in Yonkers to do this very thing.

Lincoln High School's Jim McManus
The Environmental Transformation Award

An empty concrete courtyard once dominated the interior center of Lincoln High School. Transformed by a student team, it is now an innovative and beautiful natural garden area, complete with plants, potted trees, herb boxes and a stone fountain. Plans are laid for solar power, a greenhouse and water cisterns thanks to the school's new horticulture program and a group of eager special education students. Jim McManus, faculty organizer and advisor, says their motto is to restore, reuse and recycle in order to give back to nature.

The Marciano Family
The Family that Volunteers Together Award

They say a family that volunteers together stays together. Let's hear it for the Marciano family -- all five of them-- who have been volunteering on Groundwork Hudson Valley's Science Barge for the past two years now. Big John is the family leader, followed by Jonathan, 17. Binta: 13. Micha: 12. And Joshua: 4.

Terry Nagai
River Rat Award

Terry's love of water is deeply tied to her grandmother, a Japanese Shinto Priestess, who preached about the importance of nurturing nature to receive universal truth. Over the decades, Terry has never given up that "I can change the world attitude" as she works as part of the River Action Team who affectionately call themselves River Rats to advocate for pollution control, water

safety, wildlife, and more for both the Saw Mill and Hudson Rivers.

Stephen Thela
Eagle Scout at Work

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. To earn the ranking, a scout has to manage and direct a major service project. Our next winner, Stephen Thela, chose a three day conservation project in the Runyon Heights neighborhood. His assembled team rescued 75 trees from invasive vines and removed bags upon bag of garbage, tires, refrigerators and other debris from the area. Good work!

Joan Wilce and Renee Toback
Best Use of Backyard Space Award

By providing food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young--and by incorporating sustainable gardening practices--this couple not only help wildlife, but they earned certification as an official wildlife habitat by the national Wildlife Federation.

Taffy Williams
Advocate for the Sea Award

Taffy Williams said she felt compelled to "get involved" in whale and dolphin issues with the New York Whale and Dolphin Action League after learning about navy sonar causing mass strandings of whales. Then she couldn't avoid the other problems, including overfishing and a loss of the food supply, bycatch, pollution, climate change, the aquarium industry and illegal whaling.

She believes that of each of us got involved in one environmental issue, the world would be a greener and cleaner place.

Gail and Bill Averill
George and Maria Avgerakis
Kim Fader
Mary Jerome
Barrymore Scherer and Michelle Jacobs
Yonkers Conservation Easement Activists

These residents not only saved tax dollars by filing conservation easements on their properties through the Yonkers Land Conservancy, but they also preserved green open space in an urban environment. Their yards are now the talk of their neighborhoods where gardens, plantings and sunshine prevail in perpetuity.

Sarah Lawrence College
Transportation Award

SLC recently rolled out a bike-share program, fixing up six abandoned bicycles and placing them in a designated rack in front of the library for students, faculty, and staff to use to get around campus, pedal into town, or just to get some exercise.

Bikes can be checked out at the main library as easily as checking out a book. Use of the bicycle is free for up to six hours; after that, riders will be charged 25 cents per hour or a full-day rate of six dollars. Every bike comes with a lock, and users are encouraged to be diligent about securing bikes so that the community can keep pedaling.

Walter Rodriguez
Tree Hugger Award

Many of us have a childhood memory that sticks. This man's involves watching his favorite climbing and shade tree, a giant maple, get cut down and turned into wood chips before his very 12 year old eyes. From that day forward, Walter vowed to keep trees alive and now spends a good portion of his free time planting trees in his Colonial Heights neighborhood--about 40 at last count.

Richard Scott
Commuter of the Year Award

Every New Yorker knows part of commuting is complaining about your actual commute. Missing trains, spilling coffee, inhaling fumes. Our next winner, Richard Scott, is an anomaly. He actually kayaks to work--putting in at Alpine Marina and getting out at Beczak's Beach. It takes 20 minutes each way and saves the guy \$10 a day in gas and tolls per day, not to mention zero carbon footprint.

Jack Gilman Boat Builder Extraordinaire

Here's a guy who donates his free time to teaching others how to build their own kayaks through the Yonkers Rowing and Paddling Club at the JFK Marina.

YMCA Healthy Organics Award

We like it when people put their money where there mouths are. In this instance, we commend the Yonkers YMCA for replacing their vending machine's candy bars and sugared sodas with healthier snack choices such as baked chips, vitamin supplemented drinks and trail mixes.

Nancy Sarmast
St. John's Farmer's Market

Here to accept on behalf of the St. John's Episcopal Church for running a weekly farmer's market is local baker Nancy Sarmast who sells her home baked goods at the market every Thursday.

Michael Singoro
Green King of Yonkers

This year's winner, Michael Singoro, is a Groundwork Hudson Valley intern who hails from Kenya, where he obtained an Environmental Studies Community Development to help in his quest to train poor rural farmers on forest management. His year-long environmental training visa through Seattle's Earth Corps comes after beating out more than 6,000 applicants for two positions in the United States. This young man hopes to take his experience back home to address issues of deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, water quality and shortages, poaching, and domestic and industrial pollution.

Michael brings us this Kenyan Proverb: "Treat the world well because it was not given to us by our parents but it is loaned to us by our children."

Also a special thanks to:

Park Hill Racquet Club

Steve Savard for his support

Riverside High School's art students

Nick Mastromarco's video production students Daniel DuRoss and Ismael Rivera from Riverside High School

Margie Ford Productions for stage management

Hudson River Museum

Joan Jennings Photography

Taffy Williams for piano accompaniment

La Pinata Bakery

Sierra Bangari for homemade baked goods

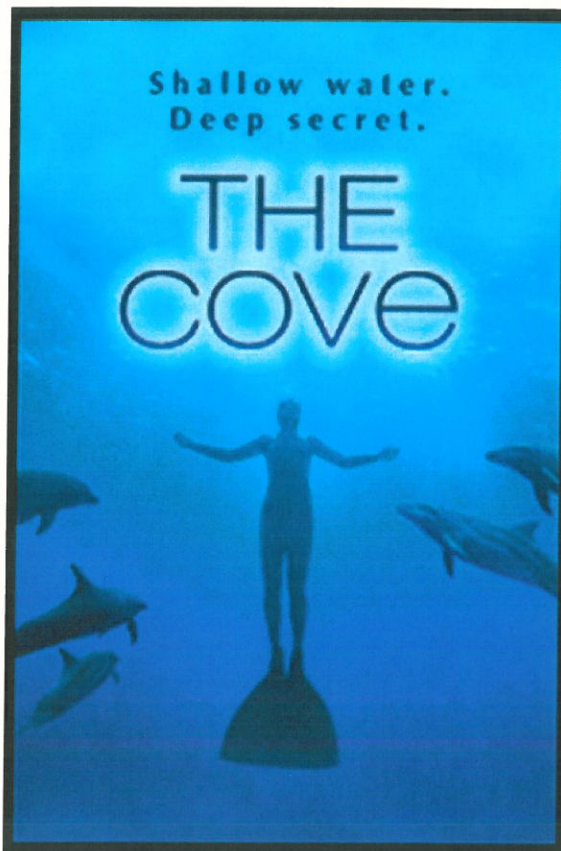
Home Depot

Stew Leonard's

Greyston Bakery

Beyond Costumes

Free Film Screening



Academy Award Winner for Best Documentary of 2009, *THE COVE* follows an elite team of activists, filmmakers and freedivers as they embark on a covert mission to penetrate a remote and hidden cove in Taiji, Japan, shining a light on a dark and deadly secret. Utilizing state-of-the-art techniques, including hidden microphones and cameras in fake rocks, the team uncovers how this small seaside village serves as a horrifying microcosm of massive ecological crimes happening worldwide. The result is a provocative mix of investigative journalism, eco- adventure and arresting imagery, adding up to an unforgettable story that has inspired audiences worldwide to action.

THE COVE is directed by Louie Psihoyos and produced by Paula DuPré Pesmen and Fisher Stevens. The film is written by Mark Monroe. The executive producer is Jim Clark and the co-producer is Olivia Ahnemann.

WHERE: Sarah Lawrence College. Heimbold Visual Arts Center, Kimball Avenue. Parking in Andrews Parking Lot across the street. Turn in at main entrance to College at Glen Washington Rd. and immediately right into

parking lot. Go toward back of parking lot for walkway across street to building (modern stone and glass building). Go to: <http://www.slc.edu/campus-map/index.html> for map of area and PDF map of campus called visitor's guide. (Believe it or not, the building is easy to find.)

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

DATE: Friday, April 30

Copy: <http://www.thecovemovie.com>

This eblast is provided by the [City of Yonkers Green Policy Task Force](#). Its members research and submit potential "green" legislative initiatives to the City Council; work on potential quality-of-life improvements for the Yonkers community; apply for environmental grants; and foster educational outreach for Yonkers students as well as the community-at-large. Their public meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th floor of City Hall.

If you know of others in the environmental community who would like to receive this news or attend meetings, please email laura.fahrenthold@yonkersny.gov

From: Council President Chuck Lesnick with Chairman Bob Walters and Coordinator Laura Fahrenthold-Pittman; District 1 Majority Leader Patricia McDow with Margaret Setterholm; District 2 Councilmember Wilson Terrero with Nortrud Spero; District 3 Councilmember Joan Gronowski with Bert Rothing; District 4 Councilmember Dennis Shepherd with Terry Joshi; District 5 Minority Leader John Murtagh with Molly Roffman; District 6 Councilmember John Larkin with Mel Goldstein; Administration's Appointee Joe D'Lando.

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